

March 2, 1984

LB 975

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 975 is a uniform recall procedure for the seven political subdivisions that now have recall. Those include cities, villages, counties, irrigation districts, Natural Resources Districts, public power districts, school districts and metropolitan water boards. And there are in the statutes now seven different forms of recall with different rules, different procedures, different petition requirements and LB 975 is a single uniform recall procedure in which all of the details are laid out as far as the nature of the petition, the percentage that has to be acquired, when it has to be done, what the kind of signature has to be and all of the kinds of rules that are necessary to carry out recall. The committee amendments change the number of signatures from twenty percent of registered voters to thirty-five percent of the numbers of voters in the last election for that office. The reason, registered voters includes a lot of people who have moved. It includes a lot of people on there...on that list that may not, in fact, be out there to sign a petition and it is unfair to hold them to the standard of registered voters because that does not reflect accurately the number of people that are out there and available to actually sign a petition. There are a number of counties that do not purge their lists in the way that they should so that the list of registered voters contains many, many people and you are actually asking for twenty percent of an inflated figure. Thirty-five percent of those voting in the last election is the most equivalent figure that we could find. It requires a uniform petition to be designed by the Secretary of State, the same thing that is in now for initiative and referendum. He agrees that this is simply a task that he can easily do and he has guidelines in other statutes. We allow for the use of a mark when a person cannot write their name. We specify that the initiation of a thirty day time limit for obtaining signatures begins when the circulators receive the petitions back from the Clerk. We allow that no signatures can be removed without an affidavit. There has been a question of what happens when somebody calls in and says, take my name off the petition. This standardizes the rule there. It adds language for the automatic recount for a voter